

Whakaeke Tāmaki MinterEllisonRuddWatts First in Whānau Award

Code:	1178
Faculty:	Law
Applicable study:	LLB
Closing date:	6 March 2025
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	\$5,000

Description

The Award was established in 2023 and is funded by MinterEllisonRuddWatts (MERW), a top tier New Zealand Law firm. This Award is part of the MERW Award Programme, Ngā Karahipi Whakaeke. Whakaeke means to enable arrival, as we hope to support more Māori students through their law studies and achieve their goals.

The main purpose of the Award is to encourage greater diversity in the law profession by providing financial assistance and pastoral support to Māori law students who are the first member of their whānau tonu (immediate family) to enrol in an LLB and/or the first in their whānau tonu attend university.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- The MERW Selection Committee assesses the applications
- Short-listed applicants will be required to attend a kōrero with the MERW Selection Committee
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the MERW Selection Committee

Regulations

1. The Award will be known as the Whakaeke Tāmaki MinterEllisonRuddWatts First in Whānau Award.
2. One Award will be made annually for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of \$5,000.
3. To be eligible for Award consideration, an applicant must i) be of Māori descent, ii) be a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note II), iii) be the first member of their whānau tonu (immediate family) to enrol in a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and/or the first member of their whānau tonu attend a university (see Note III), iv) have completed at least three compulsory second year Law courses, and v) be intending to enrol full-time in their third or subsequent year of a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland in the following year.
4. The basis of selection will be academic achievement, the applicant's passion for a career in law, potential to

contribute to the law profession, motivation to succeed at university, and any personal circumstances that may have impacted to the applicant's ability to participate at university, as assessed by a personal statement and a kōrero with the Selection Committee. Short-listed applicants will be required to attend a kōrero with the Selection Committee (see Note IV).

5. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the MinterEllisonRuddWatts Selection Committee.
6. The Award will be paid in one instalment in Semester One, as soon as is practical after confirmation of the awardee's enrolment (that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee).
7. To be paid the Award, the awardee must be enrolled full-time in the third or subsequent year of an LLB at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.
8. The Award may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. It is the responsibility of the awardee to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Award.
9. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.
10. Payments under the terms of this Award remain tax-free as long as they are used directly for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and/or to assist the awardee with living costs while studying (see Note I). Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Award.
11. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, can amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 6 March in the year preceding the award.
13. Notes [I]-[VII] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

- I. The tax-free status of this Award is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- II. New Zealand Permanent Residents have been granted a Permanent Resident Visa by Immigration New Zealand. For more information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/already-have-a-visa/becoming-a-permanent-resident>*
- III. For the purpose of this Award, 'first in whānau' means that no member of the applicant's whānau tonu (immediate family), including parents and siblings, has completed a university qualification prior to the applicant's first year of study. Adoptive and step parents and siblings are considered part of the applicant's whānau tonu (immediate family) where they have lived with the applicant for the previous five or more years.*
- IV. In an informal kōrero with the MERW Selection Committee, short-listed applicants will be invited to share their background and future aspirations. Shortlisted applicants will also be invited to share their pepeha in Māori or English (optional/ if known). They may be accompanied by a support person.*
- V. Awardees will receive pastoral care in the form of a mentor from MERW for a period of 12 months, and assistance with preparing their CV. They may also have the opportunity for paid work experience with MERW.*
- VI. Awardees may be required to participate in promotional activities for the Award, including social media.*
- VII. Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Award and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Award and require repayment of the funds received.*